

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

IGA-02 ACDA-07 L-03 /069 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:MKLOSSON:ARCKC

APPROVED BY EA/ROC:DBROWN

PM/SAS - RJSLOTT

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R 260036Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211792

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, TW

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SALE OF CHINOOK CH-47C HELICOPTERS TO
THE ROC

1. BOEING VERTOL HAS ASKED FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION ON THE
SALE OF 8-10 CH-47C HELICOPTERS TO THE ROC. THE CHINOOK
IS AN ALL-WEATHER, MEDIUM TRANSPORT HELICOPTER FIRST
DEVELOPED DURING THE LATE 1950'S AND USED BY THE US ARMY
IN VIETNAM, PRINCIPALLY IN A LOGISTICAL SUPPORT ROLE. THE
AIRCRAFT HAS A RANGE OF APPROXIMATELY 300 MILES, DEPENDING
ON THE LOAD, AND A MAXIMUM SPEED OF 164 KNOTS. IT CAN
TRANSPORT A VARIETY OF PAYLOADS, SUCH AS A 155MM HOWITZER
(SLUG BENEATH ITS BELLY) WITH AMMUNITION AND CREW, SEVERAL
JEEPS, OR UP TO 44 TROOPS. EACH COSTS ALMOST 5 MILLION
DOLS. -

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSED
SALE, ESPECIALLY YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE ROC NEED FOR AND
LIKELY USE OF THESE HELICOPTERS. BOEING REPRESENTATIVES
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COULD NOT SPECIFY THE ROC ARMY'S PRECISE REQUIREMENT FOR

THE CHINOOK, BUT SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR TRANS-
PORTING HEAVY LOADS TO INACCESSIBLE AREAS OF TAIWAN. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, HELICOPTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE211792
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MKLOSSON:ARCKC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760325-0759
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760816/aaaaanor.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED SALE OF CHINOOK CH-47C HELICOPTERS TO THE ROC
TAGS: MASS, US, TW
To: TAIPEI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006